

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-21 are pending in the present application; no claims having been amended, canceled, or deleted by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackman et al. (U.S.P. 6,029,020) in view of Konishi (JP 05-131696). Claims 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackman et al. in view of Konishi and in further view of Kulpa.

With respect to Blackman et al. (U.S.P. 6,029,020), this patent is not prior art against the present application. On December 9, 2004 a response was filed with the U.S. PTO including a certified translation of the priority document which was submitted to perfect priority and to remove the Blackman et al. patent from being considered prior art. In response to this filing, the PTO did withdraw the rejection to Blackman et al. Accordingly, the rejection using Blackman et al. is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Regarding the Japanese Published Patent Application to Konishi (JP 05-131,696), remarks were submitted in the Amendment filed January 24, 2007, and extensive comments were presented and discussed during the interview of March 28, 2007. During the interview, Examiner Nguyen appeared to understand that Konishi was quite different from the claims for the reasons set forth in the Interview Summary. At the interview, it was explained that Konishi does not teach a sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheets substantially straight until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing. The Interview Summary indicated that the Examiner noted this difference.

Even though the Examiner noted during the interview that Konishi does not keep the sheet substantially straight until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing, the outstanding Office Action states that Konishi “keeps the sheets substantially straight from the ink jet recording head as shown in Fig. 1 of Konishi.” As can be seen in Fig. 1 of Konishi,

after printing by the print head 8, the paper travels through a curved path which reverses the orientation of the printed page. This is different from the claim language which requires a sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the ink jet recording head until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing.

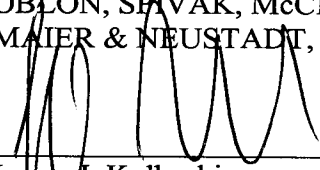
The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of a telephone discussion on May 22, 2007 with Examiner Nguyen. Examiner Nguyen indicated that a personal interview to review Konishi again was not necessary and that if he did not believe the case was allowable over Konishi, Examiner Nguyen would telephone the undersigned to discuss the features.

Accordingly, each of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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